



Inconveniently located: When the town of Wenling in eastern China offered Luo Bagen \$20,000 to move so a road could be built, he refused—and the government simply built the road around him. As part of its massive urbanization boom in the past 25 years, China now has 46,000 miles of interstate highway (compared with 47,000 in the U.S.). It plans to build thousands more in the next decade, making battles like Luo's more likely. Homeowners usually wind up on the losing end, and Luo finally gave up in November. "It was never a final solution for us to live in a lone house in the middle of the road," he told the Xinhua news agency. •

Facebook

And I Thought We Were Friends...

Back in Facebook's early days, the guiding philosophy about adding friends was quantity over quality. But today, users seem to be more careful about who they interact with on the world's largest social networking site—and who makes the cut as a friend. About

63 percent of adults said they unfriended people in 2011, up from 56 percent in 2009, according to the Pew Internet & American Life Project. The reasons: A recent survey by research company NM Incite found that people get the boot for everything from posting offensive

comments to just being downers (see *chart*). Mary Madden, a researcher at Pew, says she's not surprised by all the friend pruning. "Initially, users have an open embrace of technology," she says, "but after some time, it can turn into an awkward hug." •

Top Reasons to Unfriend Someone



1. Offensive comments
55%
2. Don't know well
41%
3. Trying to sell something
39%
4. Depressing comments
23%
5. Lack of interaction
20%

Remove from Friends Cancel